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In my next shall write at large; have nothing to say farther more than to desire you to buy me two large silver dishes, one dozen silver plates, a pair large candle sticks, snuffers & stand, two bread plates & two small silver chafing Dishes; what money you want towards their purchase I have wrote to Mr. Cooper to supply, who will be sure to do it upon your demand thereof, & please to send me them in by the first conveniency to Potomack or Rappahannock. I need not tell you to have the coat of arms on it as formerly. I know you will do it, but am first to tell you that I have lost my steel seal & want a new one.

To Mr. Nicholas Hayward.

A List of Early Land Patents and Grants.

[The several treaties between Great Britian and France did not succeed in settling controversies, or defining their rights, and marking their territorial limits in North America. As each increased their settlements, and were making progress towards more permanent possessions in a vast extent of country the pioneer farmers and traders were upholders and partizans of one of these two Nations. These were brought face to face in enterprise and in rivalry. Their zeal and loyalty asserting sovereign claims to all the territory around the head waters and tributaries of the Ohio, and indeed to all the lands west of the Alleghany mountains. Virginia especially claimed all the territory about the head waters of the Ohio, and the Mississippi valley. Neither had claims or rights which were paramount in certain localities, but such as they asserted, they were about to be called upon for a solution by the arbitrament of the sword.

The proclamation of Governor Dinwiddie, granting 200,000 acres of land in the fertile regions of the Ohio, to be divided, *pro rata*, according to rank, among the officers and soldiers who voluntarily entered into the service of the Colony for the armed expedition of 1754, fitted out to erect forts so that the crown of Great Britian, might assert and maintain its claim to the Ohio

country, was made to the soldier in a patriotic spirit and in good faith. However, owing to the want of an enabling act, and the designation of some official of the government, whose duty it should be to collect the evidence of the actual service of each claimant, and determine the sufficiency of the evidence, and also the quantity of land each individual was entitled to under the terms of the grant, and issue warrants to the deserving, in accordance with the facts, the whole gratuity so faithfully earned, came near being lost to those entitled to the bounty land.

There were many reasons for the delay in the selection and survey of the soldier's lands, but chief among them was the state of war with, and the non extinction of the Indian title to these lands; so had also come to the knowledge of some, that there were influential parties and companies in Great Britain, scheming to get extensive, if not exclusive control, of the lands on the Ohio and in the Mississippi valley. They had proved powerful enough to paralyse the operations of "The Ohio Company," and had well nigh completed the organization of the "Horace Walpole" grant, with pretensions equal to that of a new and independent province or colony. Knowing the justice of the claims of the soldiers to this bounty of 200,000 acres, and seeing the future greatness of the western country more clearly than any man of his time, Washington took the matter in hand as a champion of the soldier about to be wronged. He encouraged the claimants to organize and to petition the Governor and the Assembly to protect them in their rights. Col. George Washington also laid before Governor Botetourt, a concise history of the origin of the claim, and a protest against the character and extent of the proposed grant to the English company, to land in the locality indicated. This paper I trust, may yet be found among the archives of Virginia.

After having awakened some sense of justice among the State officials, to the claims of the soldiers, Washington resolved to visit the region where the land pledged lay. Accordingly, on the 5th of October, 1770, accompanied by his neighbor and "companion in arms," Dr. James Crocke, and their servants, they set out for the Ohio. The diary which Washington kept on this journey is of much interest, and may be seen in the second volume of Spark's *Washington*. It is quite evident that

the soldiers would never have received any benefit from these bounty lands, had not Col. Washington exerted his influence and personally interested himself with the Governor and Council, and advanced money to locate and survey the lands so lately pledged to the soldiers and so honestly earned by heroic service to the Colony.

DR. J. M. TONER.]

List of Early Land Patents and Grants Petitioned for in Virginia up to 1769, preserved among the Washington Papers.

"In obedience to his Excellency, the Governor's commands in consequence of an order of the H^o of Burgesses, of the 29th Nov., 1769, I hereby certify that the following is a true and full acc^t of all the Orders of Council for granting Lands agreeable to their request to his Excellency, and also of all Petitions which have been presented the consideration of which is postponed, & likewise of all Petitions for lands lying between the Alligainy Mountⁿ & a line that may be run from the Western Boundary of the No. Carolina line to the confluence of the river Ohio with the Mississippi, in my office which have not been presented.

N. WALTHOE, cl. Coun."

1. April 26th, 1745. To Jno. Robinson, Sec^y, Esqr., and others.—One hundred thousand acres lying on Green Briar river N^o W^t and west of Cow-Pasture and New found land. [Partly Surveyed.]

John Smith and others.—Fifty thousand acres on the River and branches of Roanoke, the branches of James River. [Eastern Waters.]

2. To James Patton & others.—One Hundred thousand acres in Augusta County, on three branches of Mississippi River, the one known by the name of Wood River, the other two to the westward thereof, and on the waters of the said rivers. [Surveyed & Patented.]

3. To Henry Downs and others, 50,000 acres lying West of the Cow Pasture on Green Briar river. [Nothing Done.]

4. Nov. 4th. To Jno. Blair, Esq., and others, 100,000 acres

lying to the westward of the Line of Lord Fairfax, on the waters of Potomac & Youghyaughye. [Greater Part Surveyed.]

5. April 8th, 1746. To Thos. Bassett and others, 50,000 acres lying in the forke of Mississippi river and to run up and down both said forks and down said river. [West of Ohio.]

6. April 22d, 1747. To Will^m McMachan and others, 60,000 acres joining the grant Jno. Blair, Esq., & others and upon the waters of Potomack west & N^o w^t of the line of Lord Fairfax and the Branches of Youghyaughus & Monongahela. [Surveyed, &c., &c.]

May 7th. To Will^m Gray & others, 5,000 in Lunenburg beginning at three marked trees at the foot of the Indian Field Mountains, running on the branches Irvin* River. [Eastern Waters.]

7. To the same, 10,000 in Augusta beginning on the opisit of the Foot of the Indian Field Mountain, running on the branches of New River or Mississippi. [Partly Surveyed.]

8. August 6th. To the Rev. Mr. Wm. Dawson and others, 8,000 acres on the Head Branches Tye & Roche Fish Rivers, near the three ridged Mountain, Priest's Mountⁿ & ye Blue Ridge. [In Amhurst County.]

9. To Will^m Gray and others, 10,000 acres in Augusta joining their grant for 10,000 acres in 1747, running down the branches of Mississippi river. [Nothing Done.]

10. May 7th, 1748. To Wm. Gray and others, 10,000 acres in Augusta lying on the west side of the Indian Field Mountains, running on the branches of New River or Mississippi. [Nothing Done.]

11. June 11th. To William Gray and others, 10,000 acres in Augusta joining their grant for 10,000 acres in May, 1747, running down the branches of Mississippi River. [Nothing Done.]

April 4th, 1749. To Jno. Robinson, Sen^r, Esqr., & Com^s leave is granted to renew their order of Council of the 26th of April, 1745, & four years longer allowed them to survey. [First Grant returned.]

*This name has been rendered indistinct by damage to the paper.

April 27, Do. To Henry Downs and others leave is granted to renew their order of Council of the 26th of April, 1745, and four years longer time allowed them to survey. [Renewed.]

12. July 12th. To John Hanbury, of London, merchant, Thomas Lee, Esq., and others, 200,000 acres betwixt Ronsanetors (I fancy Kiscaminettis) and Buffalo creek on the south side of the River Alleganey otherwise the Ohio, and betwixt the two creeks and the yellow creek on the north side of the river, or in such other Parts of the West of the Great Mountain as shall be adjudged most proper by the Petitioners for making settlements thereon, on certain conditions, which being complied with they have leave to take up and survey three hundred thousand acres more under the like restrictions and conditions as for the first 200,000 acres, and adjoining thereto within the said Limits.* [Kiscaminittas is north Bound'y of Pensylvania.]

13. To Bern^d Moore & others, 100,000 acres on the waters of Mississippi river. Beginning at two trees marked P. T. G. standing in the Forke of a Branch of the said river known by the name of New River, and so down the said river and the waters of the said Mississippi river. [Nothing Done.]

14. To Jno. Lewis, Esq., & others, 800,000 in one or more surveys beginning on the Bounds between this Colony and No. Carolina and runing to the westward and to the north so as to include the said quantity.

15. To Peyton Randolph and others, 400,000 acres in one or more surveys lying on New River commonly called Wood's River and the waters thereof. [Nothing Done.]

16. To Will^m Winston, Jun^r, and others, 50,000 acres begin^s at old Fort between Ohio and Mississippi rivers, running up the Western side of Ohio and Eastern side of Mississippi in one or more Surveys between s'd rivers. [West of Ohio.]

To John Taylor and others leave is given to renew their grant for 100,000 in Augusta on three branches of the Mississippi river, the one known by the name of Wood's river and the other two to the westward thereof and on the waters of the said river, and

* It is probable that this was "the Ohio Company's" tract.

two years longer time allowed them to complete their surveys.
[The same with No. 2.]

17. June 15th, 1750. To Jno. Hiscock and John Griffin, of Bristol, merchants, and others, 100,000 acres on the New River and Holston's river and the waters of both rivers. [Nothing Done.]

18. June 15th. To Adam Harman and others, 7,000 acres lying in Augusta on both sides of Blue Stone creek, begining about 3 miles from where the s'd creek runs into said Wood River at a marked tree standing upon the N^o side thereof, thence up the same including the several branches on both sides to compleat the complement. [Nothing Done.]

To the same, 4,000 acres in Augusta on the creeke next below Blue-Stone creeke, begining upon the head of the Said Creeke and running down including the several branches for complement. [Nothing Done.]

To the same, 4,000 acres in Augusta on the second creek below Blue-Stone, begining at the head thereof thence down the same including the several branches for complement.

19. Oct. 26th, 1751. To Samuel Davis, of Bristol, merchant, and others, 50,000 on Alegany River and Holston River or any of the watters of both rivers and four large Islands in the said Rivers and several other Small Islands lying in the different parts of the said Holston & Aligany rivers. [Nothing Done.]

20. To George Walton and Joseph Walton, 20,000 acres on both sides of Holston's River, beginning at Lyon's Upper Cabin thence up & down in aug^a. [Nothing Done.]

To Marquis Calmers and others leave is granted to renew their order of Council granted April 22d, 1747, to Will^m McMachon and others for 60,000 acres. [The Same with No. 6.]

To John Blair, Esq^r, & Co. leave is granted to renew an order of Council granted Nov. 4th, 1745, for 100,000 acres lying on the westward of the line of Lord Fairfax on the waters of Poto-mack and Yough'y. [The Same with No. 4.]

21. March 3d, 1752. To Thomas Lewis, 100,000 acres in Augusta, begining below the mouth of New river or Allegany thence down the said river for complement.

22. To Ambrose Ponch, 10,000 acres in Augusta, begining on Alleghany above the mouth of New River to continue up the said river for quantity.

23. To James Maury, 10,000 acres in Augusta to begin on Alligany on the north side of the dividing Line between Carolina and Virginia and to continue up the river for complement.

24. March 3d, 1752. To Thomas Merriweather, 10,000 acres in Aug^a, begining above Maury's 10,000 acres on the said river and to continue up the s'd river for complement.

25. To Thomas Walker, 10,000 acres in Augusta, beginning at the mouth of Pickawalian river, continuing down Alligany for complement. [West of Ohio.]

26. To Nicho^s Merriweather, 10,000 acres in Aug^a, begining at the mouth of Pickawalian, continuing up the said river for quantity. [West of Ohio.]

27. May 4th. To Mathew Talbot and others, 20,000 acres in Augusta on the New River, begining at the mouth of the Meadow Creek and running up and down the said New river, the Meadow creek and the adjacent creeks for complement. [Selection on this Side New River.]

To the same, 20,000 acres in Augusta on New River, begining at the mouth of little river, which heads against the branches of the Adken river, and running up and down the said New river & the adjacent creeks. [Carolina.]

28. To Jo^s Ironmonger and others, 100,000 acres in Augusta on Ozakicky river and its Branches, begining at a Tree marked D. D. and running up and down the said River & its branches for complement. [Carolina.]

29. Nov. 2d. To the Rev. Samuel Klug and others, 30,000 acres lying between the Green Briar to the south & the Yough^y to the north, bearing the name of Monongahela, upon a river called Goose river, begining at a run known by the name of muddy run, up the river to a white walnut Tree marked M. T. [Nothing done.]

30. June 13th, 1753. To John Willis and others, 100,000 acres in the Counties of Hallifax and Augusta, begining at John Twitty's and Maj^r Wm. Macleans lines at the supposed head of

the south fork of *little* Roanoke, running from thence to a Run known by the name of Dan River, thence to the head of New River, supposed to be the waters of the Mississippi river. [Surveyed Part Being in Pitsylvania County.]

31. June 15th. To Richard Corbin and others, 50,000 acres on the waters on the Mississippi, begin^s at the mouth of Fishing creek. [Nothing Done.]

To the same, 100,000 on the waters of Mississippi, beginning at the mouth of New river, otherwise the big Cautawa. [Nothing Done.]

June 15th, 1753. To same (that is, R. C. & others), 40,000 acres on the waters of Mississippi, beginning at the mouth of Buffalo creek and the south side thereof. [No New River & Nothing Done.]

32. Nov. 9. To Samuel Eckerlainse & others, 5,000 acres, part of the vacant land lying between Lord Fairfax's line and the line of John Blair, Esq., and Co.'s and that of ye Ohio Com^{rs}. [Nothing Done.]

33. Nov. 26th. To John Hayles and others, 64,000 acres on the waters of the New River, in Augusta, beginning below the mouth of bearskin fork, being a south fork of New River, at a tree marked I. W. [No Such Place.]

34. 1754. To Richard Corbin and others, 20,000 acres on the waters of the Mississippi, beginning at the mouth of Lalots creek. [Nothing Done above New River.]

To the same, 50,000 acres on the waters of the Mississippi, beginning at the mouth of the little Caukawa. [Nothing Done above New River.]